Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ANKARA 01020 081637Z

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2722

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

SECRETANKARA 1020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: STATE OF CYPRIOT/TURKISH COMMUNICATIONS

REFS: A) NICOSIA 223; B) STATE 22066

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE SOME OBSERVATIONS ON CYPRIOT-TURK COMMUNICATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEB 7 WE ASKED BARUTCU, IN CHARGE MFA'S CYPRUSGREECE DEPT, HOW THE MFA'S RELATIONS WERE WITH THE CYPRUS AMB SZIM. BARUTCU CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS NEVER A SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE BUT THAT ZAIM CAME TO THE MFA FAIRLY OFTEN (USUALLY WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT). IN DISCUSSING WITH BARUTCU HIS OWN PERSONAL PROBLEMS, ZAIM HAS MADE CLEAR HE WOULD LIKE TO RESIGN FROM THE GOVT, IN ADDITION TO GIVING UP HIS POSHERE, BUT WILL NOT DO SO UNTIL HE HAS ASSURANCES OF AN ADEQUATE PENSION FROM THE GOC.

2. THIS LED NATURALLY INTO A DISCUSSION OF GOC-GOT

COMMUNICATIONS, AND BARUTCU SAID THAT FORMER FONMIN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ANKARA 01020 081637Z

OLCAY HAD APPROVED A PROJECT UNDER WHICH ARRANGEMENTS

WOULD BE MADE WITH THE GOC TO HAVE AN ETHNIC GREEK CYPRIOT CHARGE REPLACE ZAIM, WHO IS AN ETHNIC TURKPM OLCAY THOUGHT IT WOULUCBEDAWIWLFUL, WHEN MAJOR DIFFICJYTIES BETWEEN THE TWO GOVTS EMERGED, TO CALL IN A GREEK RATHER THAN A TURK. OLCAY'S PROJECT, HOWEVER, WAS VETOED BY HIS SUCCESSOR, BAYULKEN.

- 3. BARUTCU CONFIRMED THAT ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT THAT WAS WORKED OUT COOPERATIVELY BY THE TWO GOVTS WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW THE ASSIGNMENT OF A GOC AMB, AS OPPOSED TO A CHARGE, PENDING A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.
- 4. COMMENT: THIS INFORMAL TALK WITH BARUTCU WAS WELL SHORT OF THE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY EMB NICOSIA (REF A), ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT TURKS WOULD PROBABLY WELCOME AN INITIATIVE DIRECTLY FROM THE GOC TO REPLACE ZAIM WITH A GREEK CYPRIOT CHARGE, SINCE ZAIM IN MANY RESPECTS IS MORE OF AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE TURKS THAN TO THE GOC, BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE THEMSELVES. WE IN ANKARA COULD ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO SO FAR AS TO SEEK ASSURANCES

THAT A NEW CHARGE WOULD HAVE REGULAR, SERIOUS CONTACT WITH THE MFA.M SIDE FROM THE FACT THAT ANY ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BEFOREHAND BY THE TWO GOVTS, AT WHICH TIME THE GOC COULD SEEK SUCH ASSURANCES, OUR VIEW IS THAT THE SUCCESS OF ANY GREEK CYPRIOT CHARGE WILL DEPEND NOT SO MUCH ON THE TURKS AS ON WHETHER THE CHARGE IS KEPT WELL ADVISED AND WELL BRIEFED BY HIS GOVT. IF HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY, THE TURKS WILL LISTEN TO HIM. TURK MFA OFFICIALS ARE QUITE PROFESSIONAL IN THIS RESPECT. WE BELIEVE THAT GOC HAS SOMETHING TO GAIN AND ALMOST NOTHING TO LOSE BY SUCH A MOVE, EXCEPT FOR THE INCONSEQUENTIAL LOWERING OF THE TITLE OF THEIR REP IN ANKARA.

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